



Judicial Fellowship Program

**Sponsored by
American Bar Association's Judicial Division
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**



Purpose

The purpose of the fellowship program is to provide a mutually beneficial working relationship between the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and a sitting judge whose jurisdiction currently involves the adjudication of motor vehicle and pedestrian-related offenses. The judicial fellow will function as an active liaison between the American Bar Association's Judicial Division, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the National Judicial College (NJC), and judges and their representative organizations throughout our nation. The judicial fellow will strive to promote understanding, communication, cooperation, education, and collegiality between the entities aforementioned.

NHTSA has undertaken concerted efforts to reach out to judges and to the public through its Enforcement and Justice Services Division. Judges, particularly those who labor in the limited jurisdiction courts of our states, counties and municipalities, are often overlooked in education and communication opportunities. They frequently lack the ability to gain and to share the knowledge needed to resolve the legal and evidentiary issues that challenge them daily in adjudicating impaired driving, occupant protection, and other motor vehicle-related cases. The mission of the judicial fellow will be to serve as a conduit, to deliver needed resources, research and the educational opportunities of NHTSA and its cooperative partners to judges and citizens in their jurisdictions. The purpose of the fellowship is not to advance a particular adjudication

agenda or enforcement bias. It is to improve the delivery of justice and improve highway and pedestrian safety through education, collegiality, communication, and community outreach activities.

Duties of the Judicial Fellow

Duties of the judicial fellow will include being a teacher, writer, community outreach activist, consultant, liaison, reporter, and spokesperson. The judicial fellow will be required to accomplish certain specified “milestones” as agreed upon by the ABA and NHTSA and to file quarterly reports detailing activities undertaken in pursuit of the milestones and other assigned duties.

Milestones that are to be accomplished during the tenure of the fellowship will include the following:

- 1) Assist in the development and updating of judicial training and education materials in both legal and scientific areas on traffic safety issues including impaired driving and occupant protection.
- 2) Consult with NHTSA contractors in delivering judicial training as requested by the COTR.
- 3) Cooperate and consult with the National Judicial College on a continuing basis for design and content improvement of the curriculum.
- 4) Establish and maintain working relationships between NHTSA and professional legal organizations and associations.
- 5) Author and seek publication of articles concerning motor vehicle law, traffic safety and community outreach programs.

The judicial fellow will also be expected to work closely with the ABA’s Judicial Division on projects and programs that are the subject of the NHTSA/ABA cooperative agreement. Required activities will include:

- 1) Assisting in curriculum planning, faculty selection, and course segment presentation for the program held at the ABA Annual Meeting.
- 2) Assisting ABA staff in writing and editing the *Highway to Justice* newsletter, a quarterly publication inserted in the Judicial Division's quarterly newsletter.
- 3) Collaborating with ABA and NHTSA staff to develop community outreach materials and products that will assist judges and judicial personnel in extra-judicial activities related to motor vehicle and pedestrian safety.
- 4) Representing NHTSA at ABA functions and meetings in addition to participating in such Judicial Division committee activities as is necessary to accomplish the objectives of the judicial fellowship.

Written reports with supporting documentation are to be delivered to the contracting officer's technical representative (COTR) at the end of the first quarter of service and each quarter thereafter for the duration of the fellowship. The judicial fellow will be expected to travel regularly to NHTSA headquarters in Washington, D.C. or to other assigned venues to consult and communicate with NHTSA staff and others.

Additional Considerations

Expenses for all authorized travel, lodging, food, and incidentals will be reimbursed in accordance with recognized federal rates. Requests for reimbursement will be processed through the American Bar Association's Judicial Division. A yearly stipend will be provided to each Fellow. It is paid in equal monthly installments and subject to withholding taxes.

It is anticipated that the judicial fellow will spend two days per month at NHTSA headquarters or performing duties outside their Court. Based upon information gathered from previous participants in the fellowship program, it is estimated that the judicial fellow will expend 60 hours per month on fellowship

related matters. This does not include time spent in travel or time spent while at headquarters.

Application and Selection Process

Applications for the fellowship are available through the ABA's Judicial Division by contacting Yolanda Simmons at ABA headquarters in Chicago. E-mail: simmonsy2@staff.abanet.org. Address: **ABA Judicial Division, 321 N. Clark, 19th Floor, Chicago, IL 60610. Phone: (312) 988-5742.** Applications must provide responses to all questions posed in the application questionnaire and must be received by the ABA **not later than Monday, June 14, 2004.** Applications will be evaluated by the Executive Committee of the Judicial Division's National Conference of Specialized Court Judges (NCSCJ) or the National Conference of Administrative Law Judiciary (NCALJ). Final selection of the judicial fellow will be made by the Director of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Outreach Division. To learn more about NHTSA, its products, services, and programs, prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the NHTSA web site www.nhtsa.dot.gov.